

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are pending. Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tatsuya (US 5,532,692). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tatsuya '692 describes a communications system that includes an interrogator for transmitting an interrogation signal and a responder for decoding the interrogation signal at a given reception timing. At column 4, lines 60-65, Tatsuya describes a code display which indicates information of a slip number which can be optically or magnetically read out. Specifically, OCR characters, MICR characters, and a bar code representative of the slip number are written into the code display during the fabrication of the home-delivery slip. Additionally, column 6, lines 4-16 and 52 describe a slip issuing device with a body formed with a setting slit for accommodating a home-delivery slip. The slip issuing device includes the starting winding, a bar code reader, a keyboard, a writer, a display, a computer and a printer. The starting winding can be electromagnetically coupled with the winding of the responding circuit on the home delivery slip to supply electric power thereto. The bar code reader functions to read a bar code representative of a slip number which is previously provided in the code display on the home-delivery slip. The keyboard is used in entering information regarding freight.

However, Tatsuya '692 neither teaches nor suggests position data that is read by a receiving site and a method to convert said position data into a language used within the area of receiving the freight. Without such a system, controlling the physical distribution of the freight

becomes more complicated with the additional requirements of deciphering a foreign language, thereby adding to shipping delays and costs.

Claim 1 has been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form for the reasons discussed below. Therefore, claim 2 is allowable. The Applicants respectfully request the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

The newly amended claim 4 overcomes the limitations of Tatsuya '692 by reciting a method of controlling physical distribution comprising recording position data including latitude and longitude destination data of freight on a recording medium provided to the freight, reading the position data by one of the sites which receives the freight, converting the position data read by the one of the sites into language data indicating the destination in a language used at an area where the one of sites exists, and indicating the position data with the language data. By converting the latitudinal and longitudinal data into country specific information and relating the country specific information to a country specific language, the present invention reduces the complexity of the shipping operations, preventing mishandling of the shipment and reducing shipping costs.

Therefore, as Tatsuya '692 fails to anticipate the newly amended claim 4, the Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Tatsuya '692 describes a communications system that includes an interrogator for transmitting an interrogation signal and a responder for decoding the interrogation signal at a given reception

timing, but neither teaches nor suggests reading position data by a receiving site and converting the position data into a language used within the area of receiving the freight.

The newly amended claim 5 overcomes the limitations of Tatsuya '692 by reciting a method of controlling physical distribution comprising recording position data including latitude and longitude destination data of freight on a recording medium provided to the freight, reading the position data by one of the sites which receives the freight, converting the position data read by the one of the sites into language data indicating the destination in a language used at an area where the one of sites exists and indicating the position data with the language data. By converting the latitudinal and longitudinal data into country specific information and relating the country specific information to a country specific language, the present invention reduces the complexity of the shipping operations, preventing mishandling of the shipment and reducing shipping costs.

Therefore, as Tatsuya '692 fails to anticipate the newly amended claim 5, the Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 6, 8 and 9 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 6, 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claim 10 has been canceled. Therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 13, which is believed to be in allowable form for reasons discussed below. Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are allowable. The

Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 13, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Tatsuya '692 describes a communications system which includes an interrogator for transmitting an interrogation signal and a responder for decoding the interrogation signal at a given reception timing, but neither teaches nor suggests position data that is read by a receiving site and a method to convert said position data into a language used at the area of receiving the freight.

Specifically, the newly amended claim 13 overcomes the limitations of Tatsuya '692 by reciting a physical distribution control system with recording means for recording position data including latitude and longitude destination data of freight on a recording medium provided to the freight, a reader for reading the position data at sites that receive the freight, converting means for converting the position data read by one of the sites into language data indicating the destination in a language used within an area where the site exists, and indicating the position data with the language data. By converting the latitudinal and longitudinal data into country specific information and relating the country specific information to a country specific language, the present invention reduces the complexity of the shipping operations, preventing mishandling of the shipment and reducing shipping costs.

Therefore, as Tatsuya '692 fails to render the newly amended claim 13 obvious, the Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 14, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As stated above, Tatsuya '692 neither teaches nor suggests reading position data by a receiving site and converting the position data into a language used at the area of receiving the freight.

The newly amended claim 14 overcomes the limitations of Tatsuya '692 by reciting physical distribution control system with recording means for recording position data including latitude and longitude data of destination of freight on a recording medium provided to the freight, a reader for reading the position data by one of the sites which receives the freight, converting means for converting the position data read by the one of the sites into language data indicating the destination in a language used at an area where the one of sites exists, and indicating the position data with the language data. By converting the latitudinal and longitudinal data into country specific information and relating the country specific information to a country specific language, the present invention reduces the complexity of the shipping operations, thereby preventing mishandling of the shipment and reducing shipping costs.

Therefore, as Tatsuya '692 fails to render the newly amended claim 14 obvious, the Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 13, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 15, 17 and 18 are allowable. Further, the physical distribution control system recited in claim 15 is believed to be allowable as it recites that each of the sites includes recording means for recording position data of a place where the position data is read and the position data includes latitude and longitude data. As Tatsuya fails to disclose said recording means, claim 15 is believed to be allowable over Tatsuya. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 15, 17 and 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatsuya '692 in view of Dreher et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form for reasons discussed below. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 2 and 3 be withdrawn.

Unlike the methodology recited in claims 4 and 5 (and the corresponding system recited in claims 13 and 14), Tatsuya '692 neither teaches nor suggests reading position data by a receiving site and converting the position data into a converted into a language used at the area of receiving the freight. To the contrary, Tatsuya '692 teaches away from converting position data into a language used at the area of receiving the freight by disclosing that delivery information such as the names and addresses of a destination and a sender is to be hand-written in to entry blanks 3010 by the sender. Also information of a freight or fee and information of an assortment code for identifying a destination region are to be hand-written into the entry blank 3101 by the parcel handling agent (col. 23, lines 29-36). As a delivery agent and parcel handling agent enters position and delivery data in their native languages, no electronic conversion into a language used within the area of receiving the freight would be required.

The Examiner cites Dreher in order to cure the deficiencies of Tatsuya '692. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Dreher describes converting a position of a gate at (the) address into position data. However, as best understood by the Applicants, Dreher neither teaches nor suggests conversion means for converting the position data into a language used within the area of the site handling the freight. Even if Dreher were combined with Tatsuya '692, the combination would lack the method of converting the position data read by one of the sites into language data indicating the destination in a language used within an area where one of sites

exists, and indicating the position data with said language data. As Tatsuya '692 and Dreher fail to teach or suggest the features of the newly amended claim 4, 5, 13 and 14, not only does no motivation exist to combine Tatsuya '692 and Dreher, even if combined, Tatsuya '692 and Dreher do not render the present invention obvious. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 4, 5, 13 and 14.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 6, 8 and 9 are allowable. Further, the method of controlling physical distribution recited in claim 6 is believed to be allowable as it recites that each of the sites includes recording means for recording position data of a place where the position data is read and the position data includes latitude and longitude data. As Tatsuya and Dreher fail to teach or suggest such a recording means, claim 6 is believed to be allowable over Tatsuya and Dreher. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 6, 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claim 10 has been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from claim 13, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 13, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 15, 17 and 18 are allowable.

Further, the physical distribution control system recited in claim 15 is believed to be allowable as it recites that each of the sites includes recording means for recording position data

of a place where the position data is read and the position data includes latitude and longitude data. As Tatsuya and Dreher fail to disclose such a recording means, claim 15 is believed to be further allowable over Tatsuya and Dreher.

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatsuya '692 in view of Speasl et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's case will not be discussed in this paper.

Claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form for reasons discussed below. Therefore, claim 2 is allowable. The Applicants respectfully request the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Regarding method claims 4 and 5 and corresponding systems claims 13 and 14, Tatsuya '692 is inapplicable to the present invention. Specifically, as stated above, unlike the methodology recited in claims 4 and 5 (and corresponding systems recited in claims 13 and 14), Tatsuya '692 neither teaches nor suggests reading position data by a receiving site and converting the position data into a converted into a language used at the area of receiving the freight.

The Examiner cites Speasl et al (US 5,815,114) in order to cure the deficiencies of Tatsuya '692. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Speasl describes position data that includes altitude data of the destination. However, Speasl neither teaches nor suggests means to determine the altitude and position of the freight. Speasl only determines the offsets of a hypothetical room. Even if Speasl were combined with Tatsuya '692, the combination would lack the method of converting the position data read by one of the sites into language data

indicating the destination in a language used within an area where one of sites exists and indicating the position data with said language data. As Tatsuya '692 and Speas1 fail to teach or suggest the features of the newly amended claim 4, 5, 13 and 14, no motivation exists to combine the Tatsuya '692 and Speas1 patents. Even if combined, Tatsuya '692 and Speas1 do not render the present invention obvious. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 4, 5, 13 and 14.

Claims 6-9 have been amended to depend from claim 4, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 6-9 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 6-9 be withdrawn.


Claim 10 has been canceled, therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection will not be discussed in this paper.

Claims 11, 15, 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 13, which is believed to be in allowable form. Therefore, claims 11, 15, 17 and 18 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 11, 15, 17 and 18 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

A one month extension of time and requisite extension fee being submitted herewith,
please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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